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1401 Main Street  
Suite 850  
Columbia, SC 29201

C. Dukes Scott  
Executive Director

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

2005-83-A  
246113

September 11, 2013

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk & Administrator  
**Public Service Commission of South Carolina**  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Public Night Hearings

Dear Ms. Boyd:

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") issue a standing order for future public night hearings requiring Utility witnesses and those solicited by the Utility to testify only after the other public customers have been afforded the opportunity to testify. This request is identical to the Motion made by ORS and approved by the Commission during the Rock Hill public night hearing in the Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC rate case, Docket No. 2013-59-E.

The Commission schedules public night hearings during cases, usually at the request of a member of the General Assembly, for the purpose of providing a forum, at a convenient time and location, for customers of the Utility to present their comments regarding an Application proposing changes in the service and rates. Most customers, in preparation for the public night hearings, have drafted testimony and are taking time away from their families and work so that their testimony can be included as part of the record in the case. Under South Carolina law, this is the only opportunity for these customers to voice their opinions and concerns to the Commissioners.

Despite the purpose of the night hearings, it is not unusual for a Utility to present solicited organizations and companies supported monetarily by the Utility or the Utility's own employees to testify on its behalf at public night hearings. The Utility should not be allowed to confiscate time away from the public, particularly when it is given ample opportunity to present its case before the Commission at the merits hearing held in Columbia. Ultimately, the public night hearings are simply that, hearings for the public and therefore the customers, not the Utility, should be provided the first opportunity to testify and discuss the impact of the Utility's Application. Further, prior to the beginning of the public night hearing, the Utility should be required to provide to the Commission Staff the names of its witnesses and organizations it has solicited.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

C. Dukes Scott

cc: Joseph Melchers, Esquire